3: Hutson M-5 (no date) 1921 AF16 Southwest China AF16

A person is taken near a wall, then blindfolded, turned round several times, and told to walk to the wall; *mo chao pi* 摸照壁.

Blindman's buff, *ta hsia mo* 打瞎摸; hide and seek, *ts'ang mao mao* 藏貓貓 (the seeker being the *mao* or cat); marbles, *tan tan tan* 彈; turning cart wheels, or turning like a kestrel *ta yao-tzŭ fan shên* 打鷂子翻身; a kind of hockey *ta ch'ou niu* 打臭牛, 'to hit the stinking ox'; top-spinning, *ch'ai ti ko tzŭ* 扯地鴿子; swinging, *ta ts'ui* 打鞦; are all familiar pastimes.

Kiteflying, *fang fêng-chêng* 放風箏 in the second moon is done by grayheaded men as well as by children. The kites are in the shape of eagles, bats, etc., etc., and if one should fall on a house it is unlucky and no one dare claim it.

The shuttle-cock in the game *t'i chien-tzŭ* 踢毽子 is a brass cash with a few feathers attached; it is kept in the air by using the side of the foot for a battledore. Experts turn round once after each kick.

To turn to a different class of pastime: eagles are kept for catching birds and rabbits, *fang ying* 放鷹. The sport is so exciting that a proverb says: 'After seeing an eagle catch a rabbit the glory of an official career sinks into insignificance.'

Game is hunted with a kind of setter, *fang lieh ch'üan* 放獵犬 or *fang nien shan kou* 趁山狗. These dogs have long tapering noses and slight bodies.

The musk-deer is hunted, *shuan chang-tzŭ* 拴獐子 for the musk. A coolie carrying a small quantity of musk can easily be detected by the smell. The deer horns are sold for medicine and the skin for leather.

Jackdaws and various other birds are kept for fighting purposes *fang ch'üeh ta ts'ai* 放鵲打彩; which means gambling.

Practising with bow and arrows, *ts'ao kung chien* 操弓箭 is a sport now going out of use. So is the exercise of the heavy knife, *shua ta tao* 耍大刀. These knives weighed 80 to 140 catties, and even more.

Many pets are kept, such as the green parrot, *ying ko* 鸚哥; the Liao-tung or black parrot, *liao ko* 遼哥; the

5: Davies G-5 (1894-1900) 1909 AF16 Southwest China AF16

Ponies, mules, cattle, sheep, and pigs are extensively reared, and in the colder places large herds of yaks are to be met with.

Mineral wealth too is not wanting in this corner of Yün-nan. In the neighbourhood of Wei-hsi T'ing there are mines of silver and copper, and just over the border of Ssŭ-ch'uan in the semi-independent state of Mi-li (lat. 28° 10′, long. 100° 50′) gold is found in some quantity.

Among other products of the Tibetan part of Yün-nan must be mentioned musk, skins and furs, rhubarb, and other Chinese medicines.

This corner of Yün-nan, however, owing to the sparseness of its population and its distance from trade centres, is not at present of great commercial importance, though wool, timber, and gold may in the future become important articles of trade.

Let us then now consider the rest of the province. The highest plains here are at an elevation of 8000 feet, while some of the river valleys in the south of the province are even below 2000 feet. But these extremes are exceptional. The great bulk of the plains of Yün-nan lie at an average of 6000 feet, with the hill tops rising some 3000 or 4000 feet above them.

The climate is excellent. In winter there are often frosts at night, but not of great severity, while in the daytime the weather is usually bright and pleasant. Snow falls in the plains only very occasionally and does not lie long. All through the dry season, which lasts from the beginning of November to the latter half of May, there is no unpleasant heat. From June to September inclusive is the monsoon, and rain falls heavily at times, with fine intervals of a few days. In these intervals the hottest weather is experienced, but in the higher plains the thermometer seldom rises above 85°. By October the main force of the rainy season has been spent, though some rain may still be expected. An occasional wet day or two there may be even in the dry season, but Yün-nan, except in its north-eastern corner, is free from the continual mist, clouds, and rain which are prevalent in Ssŭ-ch'uan in the winter.

The vegetation of the country naturally varies much in different parts of the province. The flat part of the plains